

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows to effect renumbering of the second claim 58, originally filed claim 67 and first claim 68 as follows:

64. A method for identifying agents that modulate the activity of Asp2 aspartyl protease, comprising the steps of:
- (a) contacting an Asp2 aspartyl protease and a peptide of any of claims 1 through 26 or a polypeptide of any of claims 27 through 35 in the presence and absence of a test agent, wherein the Asp2 aspartyl protease is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions to a Hu-Asp2-encoding polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 3;
 - (b) determining the cleavage of said peptide or fusion protein between said P₁ and said P₁' site by said Asp2 in the presence and absence of the test agent; and
 - (c) comparing the cleavage activity of said Asp2 in the presence of the test agent to the cleavage activity in the absence of the agent to identify agents that modulate the activity of the polypeptide, wherein a modulator that is an Asp2 inhibitor reduces said cleavage and a modulator that is an Asp2 agonist increases said cleavage.
66. A method for identifying agents that inhibit the activity of human Asp2 aspartyl protease (Hu-Asp2), comprising the steps of:
- (a) growing a cell in the presence and absence of a test agent, wherein the cell expresses an Hu-Asp2 and expresses a protein comprising a peptide of any of claims 1 through 26 or a polypeptide of any of claims 27 through 35;
 - (b) determining the determining the cleavage of said protein at the site between said P₁ and P₁' in said cell in the presence and absence of the test agent; and
 - (c) comparing said cleavage activity in the presence of the test agent to the cleavage activity in the absence of the test agent to identify an agent that inhibits the activity of Hu-Asp2, wherein reduced cleavage activity in the presence of the test agent identifies an agent that inhibits Hu-Asp2 activity.

67. A method according to claim 66, wherein the host cell has been transformed or transfected with a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a Hu-Asp2, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding the Hu-Asp2(a) amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the Hu-Asp2(b) amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4;
 - (c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a fragment of Hu-Asp2(a) (SEQ ID NO: 2) or Hu-Asp2(b) (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein said fragment exhibits aspartyl protease activity characteristic of Hu-Asp2(a) or Hu-Asp2(b); and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions to a Hu-Asp2-encoding polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 3.